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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : In view of the spill-waters flowing waste in the Adyar river, will the Government have the matter investigated further and will they take up a scheme for the utilization of the water?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The matter was investigated in the year 1948 when they thought of putting up a bund across the river near Tiruneermalai to feed the Velacheri tank. The cost was found to be prohibitive and, therefore, it was dropped.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : What is the probable cost of the scheme and how many acres was the scheme expected to benefit?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : It was expected to benefit about 900 acres but the cost was found to be prohibitive.

VIDWAN T. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : திருவான்மியூர் ஏரியின் முக்கால் பாகம் விவசாயம் செய்யும் நிலங்களாக இருப்பது அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரியுமா? எஞ்சியிருக்கும் ஏரியில் மழைக் காலங்களிலே தேங்கியிருக்கும் தண்ணீரை பக்கிங்காம் கால்வாயில் வெட்டி விட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள். இதைத் தடுப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்குமா?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : இதைப்பற்றி என்னிடம் தகவல் இல்லை.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Government consider the question of taking up a simplified scheme in view of the exorbitant cost of the scheme referred to by the Hon. Minister and see if anything could be done now about it?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The matter has been fully considered and Government do not propose to investigate the matter further. They have given it up as an uneconomic proposition.

National Water-supply Scheme

* 101 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any recommendations were made by the State Government in regard to the National Water-supply Scheme at the Conference of Local Boards Central Council held in October 1958; and

(*b*) if so, what they are?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Bus accident

* 102 *Q.*—SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an accident occurred to a bus on the 10th May 1958 due to bad ruts on the Bodi-Thevaram Road; and

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(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to keep such roads in proper repair?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration): (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID; CHICKEN-POX AND SMALLPOX IN EPIDEMIC FORM IN MADRAS CITY.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, under rule 41 (1) of the Madras Council Rules, I seek your permission to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the wide prevalence of typhoid, chicken-pox and smallpox in epidemic form in certain parts of Madras City, especially in Triplicane. Since the beginning of the month, a number of young boys and girls, especially the school-going children have been affected. It is suspected that the tap water is highly contaminated and that this is the main cause of the prevalence of the disease. Eatables exposed to flies have also contributed to the spread of the disease. It is requested that the Government should lose no time in taking steps to arrest the spread of the disease.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Sir, about 112 cases of typhoid have been reported from the hospitals of the City so far, out of which 60 cases were from the Triplicane area. As a preventive measure, about 3,000 inoculations have been done. The response from the public has been poor as inoculation is not now compulsory. The Health Officer has been instructed to take action to enforce compulsory preventive inoculation by getting the City declared as infected with 'enteric fever'. The Corporation conservancy staff has been alerted to keep the affected areas clean. Deflying is being done, water mains are being sterilized and all other preventive measures taken by the Corporation Health staff.

There has been a slight increase in the incidence of chicken-pox in the City which is usual during this season. From the 1st January to the 25th February 1959, 521, attacks due to chicken-pox have been reported. No deaths have been reported. There is no prophylactic for this disease. The cases are isolated wherever necessary to check the further spread of the disease.

Sporadic infection of smallpox is prevailing in the City. From 1st January up to 25th February 1959, 359 attacks and 76 deaths have been reported. During this period 9,319 primary vaccinations and 54,946 revaccinations were done by the Corporation Health staff. There is at present no indication of a serious epidemic.